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261637Z Sep 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 001498

SIPDIS

STATE PASS DOE FOR DAS JBRODMAN AND CGAY  
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS AND SRENENDER  
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS  
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD  
STATE PASS OPIC FOR ZHAN AND MSTUCKART  
STATE PASS TDA FOR NCABOT  
STATE PASS EXIM FOR JRICHTER  
STATE PASS USTR FOR ASST USTR SLISER  
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/26/2015

TAGS: [EPET](#) [EINV](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN OIL PRODUCTION SUFFERS MINIMAL LOSSES  
DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES

REF: ABUJA 1798

Classified By: Consul General Brian L. Browne for Reasons 1.4 (D & E)

Port Harcourt Disturbances Cause Minimal  
Disruption to Nigerian Oil Production  
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1. (SBU) Recent disturbances in Rivers States, arising from the London arrest of Bayelsa State Governor and the arrest of Ijaw militant leader Dokubu Asari, have had a minimal impact on Nigerian oil production thus far. Chevron is the only major oil producer whose production has been affected. Having regained over the weekend some of the production lost last week, their current production drop is about 9,000 barrels/day. Nigeria currently exports approximately 2.4 million barrels/day.

Chevron Resumes Production at Robert Kiri;  
Idama Remains Shut In  
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2. (C) On September 26, Chevron Nigeria confirmed only the Idama flow station remained evacuated and offline; Idama produces about 9,000 barrels/day. (Note: Idama is the closest Chevron facility to Buguma, the hometown of Niger Delta People Volunteer Force (NDPVF) leader Dokubu Asari.) The Robert Kiri flow station, which produces about 15,000 barrels a daily, returned to service over the weekend with essential staff in place. Contrary to earlier reports we received from the oil company, Chevron clarified that it did not fully shut down the Inda flow station last week. Chevron is discussing plans to return its full complement of expatriate and non-essential staff back into the field, but has not reached a decision on their return as of yet.

Shell, ExxonMobil Production Not Affected  
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3. (C) Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC) reports their production was unaffected, and disavows press reports of various flow stations being shut down. SPDC produces about a million barrels/day, nearly half of Nigeria's production. ExxonMobil production facilities are located approximately 120 kilometers from Port Harcourt at Eket, Akwa Ibom State, and were not affected by the recent events. ConocoPhillips reports their joint venture operations with AGIP (ENI) have not been affected by recent disturbances. Total Nigeria also reports their production was unaffected.

Comment  
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4. (C) The impact of last week's frictions has been minimal, and the Niger Delta has been quiet the past few days. The major oil companies have shown resilience in maintaining production in the face of the disturbances and the resultant diminution in the security environment that occurred last week. The companies also demonstrated they are often able to maintain production for some time with only skeletal staffing, even after expatriate management personnel have been evacuated. More significant disruptions are unlikely, unless further events trigger a renewal of the crisis or spread the crisis to other regions.  
BROWNE